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Bill Analysis

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Primary Sponsors: Reps. Pizzulli and Bird

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SUMMARY

College Credit Plus

Textbooks

- Requires each public and participating private college to endeavor to use open source materials, instead of purchase-only textbooks, in courses with College Credit Plus (CCP) students.
- Requires a college to pay the textbook costs for CCP students if it uses purchase-only textbooks in a course for which open source materials are available.
- Requires a college and the CCP student's secondary school to each pay 50% of textbook costs if the institution uses purchase-only textbooks in a course for which no open source materials are available.

Payments to colleges

- Modifies the default state payment structure for a public or nonpublic school student taking a CCP course through a public or private college.
- Reduces the permitted maximum sum of (1) the state payment for and (2) the amount charged to a public school student taking an online course through a private college with which the student's school has entered an alternative payment agreement.

Course withdrawal notification

- Requires each public and private college participating in CCP to provide notice to a student's school if the student withdraws from a CCP course offered by the college.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

College Credit Plus

The College Credit Plus (CCP) Program allows students in grades 7-12 who are enrolled in public or nonpublic high schools or who are home-instructed to enroll in nonsectarian college courses to receive high school and college credit. CCP courses may be taken at any public or participating private college.¹

Textbooks

The bill requires each public and participating private college to endeavor to use open source materials, instead of purchase-only textbooks, in courses with CCP students. For the purposes of the provision, “open source materials” means free and publicly available educational materials, including free textbooks. “Purchase-only textbooks” are textbooks that are not free and must be purchased.

If a public or participating private college uses a purchase-only textbook in a course with CCP students when there are open source materials that may be used instead, the institution must pay the textbook costs of the CCP students.

If a public or participating private college uses purchase-only textbooks in a course with CCP students because there are no open source materials that may be used, the institution must pay 50% of textbook costs of the CCP students and the student’s secondary school must pay the remaining 50% of the cost.²

Under continuing law, a student may choose to participate in CCP under “Option A” (the student is responsible for all costs related to participation) or “Option B” (the state, through the Department of Education and Workforce, pays the college on the student’s behalf). For public school students participating under Option B, the Department deducts the costs associated with the student’s participation in CCP from the state funding received by the student’s school. Under current law, the cost of college textbooks are one of the costs deducted from a school’s funding.³

The bill’s provision regarding textbook costs only applies to students who participate in CCP under Option B.

Payments to colleges

Under continuing law, the amount of state payments for a student participating in CCP under “Option B” depends on several factors, including the type of high school and college in which the participant is enrolled, how the participant receives instruction, and whether the high school and college are operating under the default payment structure or an agreement specifying an alternative payment structure.

¹ R.C. 3365.03 and 3365.033, neither in the bill.

² R.C. 3365.072; conforming changes in R.C. 3365.07.

³ R.C. 3365.07.

Default payment structure changes

First, the bill changes the default payment structure for public and nonpublic school students taking a CCP course through a public or private college. Under current law, if a student is enrolled in a CCP course delivered by a public or private college either online or on the college's campus, the state pays the college the lesser of the default ceiling amount or the college's standard rate.

Under the bill, if a student is taking a course on the college's campus *and* the student's school offers the same course taught by a high school teacher who has earned the required credential to teach the course, the state must instead pay the default floor amount to the college at which the student is taking the course. For a student enrolled in a CCP course delivered online by a public or private college, the bill requires the state to instead pay the college the lesser of 50% of the default ceiling amount or the college's standard rate.⁴

The default floor and ceiling amounts are calculated based on (1) the per pupil formula amount established in state law (currently \$6,020) and (2) whether the college operates on a semester or quarter schedule.⁵

Maximum payments under an alternative payment agreement

The bill also prohibits the sum of (1) the payments made by the Department for a public school student enrolled in a private college with which the student's school has an agreement specifying an alternative payment structure and (2) the amount charged to that student under the agreement, from exceeding \$125 if the course in which the student is enrolled is offered online and taught by college faculty. Under current law, the sum for such a state payment and charge to a student for an online course offered by a private college is prohibited from exceeding the maximum per participant charge.⁶

The maximum per participant charge is calculated based on (1) the per pupil formula amount established in state law (currently \$6,020), (2) whether the college operates on a semester or quarter schedule, and (3) the student's number of enrolled credit hours.⁷

⁴ R.C. 3365.07(A)(1)(a), (B)(1), and (C).

⁵ R.C. 3365.01(B), (C), and (F), not in the bill.

⁶ R.C. 3365.07(B)(2)(b)(iii).

⁷ R.C. 3365.01(F), (I), and (K), not in the bill.

The table below summarizes each of the changes to CCP payments described above:

Summary of changes to CCP payments		
Scenario	Payment under current law	Payment under the bill
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A public or nonpublic school student is taking a CCP course on a public or private college's campus when the student's school offers the same course on its campus taught by a high school teacher with the required credential. ▪ The student's school and the college are operating under the default payment structure. 	The lesser of the default ceiling amount and the college's standard rate.	The default floor amount.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A public or nonpublic school student is taking a CCP course delivered online by a public or private college . ▪ The student's school and the college are operating under the default payment structure. 	The lesser of the default ceiling amount and the college's standard rate.	The lesser of 50% of the default ceiling amount or the college's standard rate.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A public school student is enrolled in a CCP course through a private college that is delivered online by college faculty. ▪ The student's school has an agreement with the college specifying an alternative payment structure. 	The sum of (1) the CCP payments made by the Department and (2) the amount charged to the student under the agreement must be <i>less than</i> the maximum per participant charge.	The sum of those payments must be <i>less than</i> \$125.

Notification of course withdrawal

Lastly, the bill requires each public and participating private college to provide notice to a student's school if the student withdraws from a CCP course offered by the college.

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	02-05-25